



Agenda Item Number: 2006-3-8A

BERNALILLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: March 28, 2006

Department: Commissioner Michael Brasher **Staff Contact:** Robert Doucette, Commission Asst.,
District 5

TITLE: Emergency Green Waste Collection Program

ACTION: Motion to approve Financial Resolution **FR -2006** appropriating \$125,000 from the Environmental Services Gross Receipts Tax for immediate implementation of the Emergency Green Waste Collection Program.

SUMMARY:

On February 28, 2006 the Board declared a State of Readiness for the 2006 Wildfire season in Bernalillo County. Drought conditions have turned our community, especially rural and semi-rural areas, into a tinderbox that can erupt into a major fire within minutes. In order to diminish the threat of fire immediate implementation of a program to eliminate weeds, yard clippings and other green waste from residences is necessary.

If approved the financial resolution will provide funding for no-cost green-waste collection campaigns, four in the East Mountain Area and two each in the North and South Valley. The funding would provide:

1. A media campaign encouraging residents to bring their green waste to the County Transfer Station and other locations that have been identified for pick-up.
2. Appropriate signage to warn residents of the fire danger in our community.
3. The additional cost to provide trucks, roll-off containers/dumpsters as required to transport green waste to the landfill or other safe storage locations.
4. Staff overtime and other expenses.
5. Landfill tipping fees if needed.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Financial Resolution **FR -2006**
2. Newspaper Articles:
 - Albuquerque Journal, November 26, 2005
 - MV Telegraph, November 18, 2005
 - Albuquerque Journal, January 15, 2006
 - Albuquerque Journal, January 18, 2006
 - Albuquerque Journal, January 26, 2006
 - Albuquerque Journal, March 1, 2006
 - Albuquerque Journal, March 5, 2006

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of preventing a major fire in Bernalillo County will not exceed the cost of extinguishing a major fire.

STAFF ANALYSIS SUMMARY

COUNTY MANAGER

County staff has been meeting to develop necessary programs to address the dangers associated with the severe drought the County and this region is experiencing. One program that is critically needed is the need for a no-cost green waste collection campaign. The proposed resolution will establish the budget and allow staff to proceed with coordinating this campaign. I recommend Board approval. TL 03/08/2006

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR FINANCE

The Bernalillo County CAFR for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 identified an unappropriated fund balance in the Environmental Services Gross Receipts fund sufficient to fund this program. Dan Mayfield 3/7/06

DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Proactive action by residents to utilize this County sponsored program for the disposal of green waste will reduce the threat and size of fire in the unincorporated area. Solid Waste will coordinate and manage the collections in the impacted areas of the County. TW 3/8/06

ELECTED OFFICIALS/OTHERS

Solid Waste Department

Green waste disposal is an immense issue for the solid waste department during the fire season, and especially this year. These events will assist the public in their proactive agenda for fire protection. Several events are planned for Thursdays thru Sundays for residents of the unincorporated areas and exact dates and locations will be made available to them. KM 3/8/06